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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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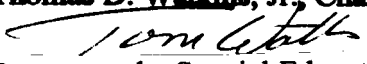


THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 25, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: **Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairperson**  


SUBJECT: Report on the Special Education Advisory Committee Activities Report  
for 2003-2004

Act 240 of the Public Acts of 1983 created a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to advise the State Board of Education (SBE) on matters relating to special education.

Federal regulations require that the state's SEAC submit an annual report of its activities and suggestions to the State Board of Education [34 CFR 300.653(b)] to implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Attachment A is the Annual Report from July 2003 to June 2004. It was provided to the SBE in September, 2004 as an information folder item. Attachment B lists the organizations represented on the SEAC. Attachment C contains the attendance records for each SEAC member during the 2003-2004 school year.

Several members of SEAC will be present at the November meeting to present the report and respond to questions from the Board.

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**State of Michigan**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Annual Report 2003-2004**

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Special Education Advisory Committee is to support educational opportunities for all students in Michigan and especially those with disabilities by gathering, sharing, and disseminating information with the public; advising the State Board of Education; and working with the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services.

**Chairperson Report  
Summary of 2003-2004 Activities**

**Submitted by Larry Simpson, Chair**

The IDEA 97 Rules and Regulations identify the purpose and function of the Special Education Advisory Committee as follows:

1. Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) of the unmet needs within the state in the education of students with disabilities 300.652 (a)(1),
2. Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities 300.652 (a)(2),
3. Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the Act 300.652 (a)(3),
4. Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act 300.652 (a)(4),
5. Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities 300.652 (a)(5), and
6. Advise on eligible students with disabilities in adult prisons 300.652(b).

2003–2004 has been a year of transition. We deliberately attempted to align the subcommittee structure to match the work identified in the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process (CIMP). The traditional subcommittees - State Improvement Plan, Policy, and Operations - were renamed to more closely match the work that was to be done. The new committees are Secondary Transition, School Age, and General Supervision. We readily accepted the challenge that embracing the work would, in some instances, require time and effort beyond the traditional meeting days. We recognized that communicating the voice of the SEAC might also be a challenge as we participated in referent groups and other committees. We believe that the alignment will result in better outcomes for students with disabilities and more opportunities for the SEAC to be involved in the work.

**Tasks Accomplished**

The SEAC began its work with a new members' retreat in September. It was aimed at helping new members get acquainted with existing SEAC members and understand their roles and responsibilities. The overarching focus question for all of SEAC at the retreat was, "How do the SEAC responsibilities align with the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process (CIMP)?" We were successful in getting all SEAC members assigned to a subcommittee. We were pleased to have State Board Member Carolyn Curtin in attendance at the retreat so as to continue the open dialogue between the State Board and the Michigan Special Education Advisory Committee.

The SEAC gave advice to the Michigan State Board of Education with regard to pending and/or potential legislation that would make changes related to educational service agencies; specifically, to urge the Board to oppose legislation that could abolish Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) and Regional Educational Services Agencies (RESAs).

**Chairperson Report, Continued**  
**Summary of 2003-2004 Activities**

Additional work of the SEAC is as follows:

- Heard and responded to the revisions and the update of the ten-year old State Board Least Restrictive Environment/Inclusion policy.
- Reviewed and responded to the revised Michigan School for the Deaf operating procedures.
- Reviewed the CIMP data regarding Timelines for Complaint Investigation and made recommendations to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE).
- Members of the SEAC served on the referent group for working on changing the due process hearing system from a two-tier to a one-tier magistrate system.
- Reviewed the public comment on the Proposed Changes to the Administrative Rules for Special Education regarding deaf-blindness.
- Addressed the impact of No Child Left Behind and some of the unintended consequences for students with disabilities and prepared a document outlining the interface between the NCLB and IDEA laws.
- Reviewed the status of students with disabilities in adult and juvenile correctional facilities and forwarded a report to the SBE as an informational item.
- Discussed at length the public comment concerning the proposed Autism Disorder definition.

The SEAC accomplishments are the result of the active participation and dedication of all the members as well as the tireless efforts, hard work, and support of Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson and her staff at the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services. Many thanks to Dr. Sandra Laham, facilitator extraordinaire, and the members of the three subcommittees: School Age, Secondary Transition, and General Supervision. It has been my pleasure to chair this group of committed, compassionate leaders all dedicated to improving the educational and life outcomes of students with disabilities and families they represent. Without them it would have been virtually impossible to provide any meaningful advice to the State Board.

**General Supervision Subcommittee  
Summary of 2003-2004 Activities**

**Submitted by Ric Hogerheide and Pam Mish, Co-Chairs**

The General Supervision Subcommittee was assigned the responsibility of reviewing the Part B Annual Performance Report, monitoring progress in on-time completion of complaints/hearings (status reports), reviewing quarterly data reports relative to unmet needs, and reviewing public comment on proposed rules as directed by the SEAC. The General Supervision Subcommittee completed the following:

- Reviewed and advised SEAC to accept the first report on On Time Completion as baseline data,
- Reviewed public comment and advised the SEAC and MDE with regard to proposed rules for MSB/MSD procedures,
- Reviewed public comment and advised the SEAC and MDE with regard to the changes to the Frequently Asked Questions document,
- Reviewed and reported back to the SEAC with regard to the issue of bullying in schools, and
- Reviewed and reported back to the SEAC with regard to highly qualified special educators.

This was the first year of the reorganization of the SEAC to align with the topical areas addressed by the Office of Special Education Programs Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process (CIMP). As such, systems to assure the timely receipt and review of reports are still evolving. These systems will support the SEAC in completing its responsibilities to advise the MDE in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary of Education under section 618 of the IDEA.

**School Age Subcommittee  
Summary of 2003-2004 Activities**

**Submitted by Patt Clement and Debs Roush, Co-Chairs**

The SEAC School Age Subcommittee was assigned the responsibility of responding to the State Board of Education's June 2003 request regarding the prevention of the possible negative impacts of No Child Left Behind.

The committee approached this complex issue by:

- Reviewing the documents presented at the June 2003 State Board of Education meeting,
- Inviting people from last year's committee to explain the nature of the concerns, and
- Inviting a variety of individuals to subcommittee meetings including:
  - Participants from the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process School Age Design for Results Team,
  - Peggy Dutcher, who addressed assessment issues, and
  - Joanne Winkelman, who addressed the issue of Highly Qualified Teachers and other policy issues.

From these discussions the committee identified issues that could potentially have a negative impact on children receiving special education. A report was presented to the SEAC for approval.

**Secondary Transition Subcommittee  
Summary of 2003-2004 Activities**

Submitted by Larry Simpson and Randy VanGasse, Co-Chairs

The Secondary Transition Subcommittee focused on three major areas this year:

- reviewing the public comment on the proposed rules for the Transition Coordinator,
- reviewing the critical barriers in the field interfering with effective transition services for young adults (which included transportation services, expanded Medicaid eligibility, and changes to the school funding), and
- reviewing the status of students with disabilities in adult and juvenile correctional facilities.

October and November meetings were spent reviewing the data about students with disabilities in adult and juvenile correctional facilities. Michele Robinson, Department of Corrections, provided the subcommittee with a realistic view of how students on the inside are actually served. We also reviewed and assessed the current status of transition services. Rosanne Renauer, Department of Labor and Economic Growth and Rehabilitation Services, gave us a great overview of where we are as a state.

Glenda Williams from the Association for Adjudicated Youth presented at our December meeting and indicated that approximately 30% of the nearly 6,500 students in juvenile detention facilities across the state are disabled. The unwillingness of students to self-identify, the lack of records from school districts, high mobility rates on the part of clients, and the practice of placing students who are delinquent, disabled (as well as developmentally delayed), abused and neglected in the same facility were cited as major problems with the delivering programs and services.

Jane Reagan, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS), discussed Medicaid issues at the March committee meeting and Jim Paris, OSE/EIS, met with us in May to address some of the issues surrounding transportation. The subcommittee raised issues involving the inequities for school aged students for after-school transportation to worksites, school buses crossing county lines, "yellow bus" transportation, dual enrollment of students in high school and community college, and the unique problems of students in rural areas (especially the Upper Peninsula).

The Secondary Transition Subcommittee looks forward to continuing our conversations next year around these crucial issues involving our students.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2004-05)**  
(New members identified in ***bold/italic***; reappointed members identified in *italic*)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Representative</u>
1. The Arc Michigan	Arc	Patt Clement
2. Autism Society of Michigan	ASM	Anne Richardson
3. Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education	CAUSE	Pat Keller
4. Council for Exceptional Children	CEC	Deb Todd
5. Learning Disability Association of Michigan	LDAM	Elaine High
6. Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education	MAASE	<i><b>Jerry Oermann</b></i>
7. Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders	MACED	OPEN
8. Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators	MAISA	Jeff Seigel
9. Michigan Association of Intermediate Special Education Administrators	MAISEA	<i><b>Cindy Anderson</b></i>
10. Michigan Association of Teachers of Emotionally Disturbed Children (shared seat with Michigan Association of Learning Disabilities Educators)	MATEDC/ MALDE	Paul Kubicek
11. Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools	MANS	<i>Jill Jacobs</i>
12. Michigan Association of Public School Academies	MAPSA	Jim Kubaiko
13. Michigan Association of School Administrators	MASA	<i>Randall VanGasse</i>
14. Michigan Association of School Boards	MASB	<i><b>Julie Shore</b></i>
15. Michigan Association of School Psychologists (shared seat with School Social Workers)	MASP/ MASSW	Steve Schwartz
16. Michigan Education Association	MEA	<i>Ric Hogerheide</i>
17. Michigan Federation of Teachers	MFT	<i><b>Dara Knill</b></i>
18. Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association	MSLHA	<i><b>Gloria Anderson</b></i>
19. Michigan Transition Services Association	MTSA	<i><b>Chuck Saur</b></i>
20. Special Education Supervisors of Michigan	SESOM	OPEN
21. Statewide Parent Advisory Committee	SPAC	Colette Ward
22. At-large Member		Pansy Coleman
23. At-large Member		Cheryl Ervin
24. At-large Member		Janice Fialka
25. At-large Member		<i>Kathleen Clegg</i>
26. At-large Member		<i><b>Dodie Raycraft</b></i>
27. At-large Member		<i>Debs Roush</i>
28. At-large Member		<i>Larry Simpson</i>
29. At-large Member		<i><b>Darlene Heard-Thomas</b></i>
30. (Vacant organizational seat)		



**Michigan Department of Education  
State Special Education Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Schedule for 2004-05**

**SEAC Fall Planning Retreat – Winding Brook Conference Center  
*September 19 and 20, 2004***

**Evening of Day 1 — New Member Orientation  
Day 2 — Committee of the Whole**

**All meetings below at Ingham ISD — generally first Wednesday of every month  
Conference Rooms B and C - Thorburn Education Center  
2630 West Howell Road, Mason  
(517) 676-1051**

**Tentative Agenda**

**Executive Committee — 8:45 am**

**Committee of the Whole — 10:00 am**

**Lunch — 12:00-12:30 pm**

**Subcommittee Meetings — 12:30-3:00 pm**

**Wednesday, October 6, 2004\***

**Wednesday, November 3, 2004**

**Wednesday, December 1, 2004**

**Wednesday, January 5, 2005**

**Wednesday, February 2, 2005**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2005**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2005**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2005**

**Wednesday, June 1, 2005**

**Wednesday, July 6, 2005\*\***

**Wednesday, August 3, 2005\*\***

**\*The October meeting will be held at the Capitol Area Career Center on the campus of Ingham ISD.**

**\*\*Historically, the SEAC agrees to cancel July and August meetings; however, the Executive Committee usually continues to meet.**

### 2003-04 SEAC Action Calendar Items (5/28/04)

Month	Action Items	Initiated By
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of SEAC Position – Support for Intermediate School Districts (ISD/RESA)</li> </ul>	SEAC
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Michigan School for the Deaf Proposed Description and Operational Procedures</li> </ul>	MDE
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Technical Assistance for Frequently Asked Questions</li> </ul>	MDE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Changes to the Administrative Rules of Special Education</li> </ul>	MDE
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of “Eligible Students with Disabilities in the Adult Correctional System” document</li> </ul>	SEAC Subcommittee
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendation to not pursue the mediation stay put provision not approved</li> </ul>	MDE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Autism definition</li> </ul>	MDE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of NCLB position</li> </ul>	State Board

## ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Acronym</u>
1. The Arc Michigan	Arc
2. Autism Society of Michigan	ASM
3. Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education	CAUSE
4. Council for Exceptional Children	CEC
5. Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan	LDAM
6. Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education	MAASE
7. Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders	MACED
8. Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators	MAISA
9. Michigan Association of Intermediate Special Education Administrators	MAISEA
*10. Michigan Association of Teachers of Emotionally Disturbed Children	MATEDC/
Michigan Association of Learning Disability Educators	MALDE
11. Michigan Association of School Administrators	MASA
12. Michigan Association of School Boards	MASB
*13. Michigan Association of School Psychologists/	MASP/
Michigan Association of School Social Workers	MASSW
14. Michigan Education Association	MEA
15. Michigan Federation of Teachers & School Related Personnel	MFTSRP
16. Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association	MSLHA
17. Statewide Parent Advisory Committee	SPAC
18. Special Education Supervisors of Michigan	SESOM
19. Michigan Transition Services Association	MTSA
20. Michigan Association of Public School Academies	MAPSA
21. Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools	MANS
22. (vacant organizational seat)	

\*Shared seats

(In addition to the organizational seats, eight at-large members are nominated directly by the State Board of Education.)

**Special Education Advisory Committee  
2003-04 Attendance**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	2003	2004									
		<u>Retreat</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	
Bodrie	SESOM	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	
Clegg	At-Large	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	A	P	
Clement	Arc	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	*	P	A	
Coleman	At-Large	A	A	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	P	
Ervin	At-Large	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P	
Fialka	At-Large	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	
High	LDAM	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Hogerheide	MEA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	A	
Jacobs	MANS	P	P	P	*	P	P	*	*	P	P	
Keller	CAUSE	P	P	P	P	P	*	A	P	P		
Krishnan	At-Large	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	
Kubaiko	MAPSA	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	
Kubicek	MALDE/MATEDC	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	
Lofton Doniver	MFT&SRP	A	A	P	A	A	*	A	*	*	A	
McNeilly	MTSA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
Mish	MAASE	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	*	
Rabidoux	MSLHA	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	*	P	
Richardson	ASM	P	P	*	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	
Roush	At-Large	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	
Russell	MASB	P	P	P	P	P	A	*	P	P	P	
Schwartz	MASP	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	
Siegel	MAISA	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	A	P	A	
Simpson	At-Large	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	
Todd	CEC	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	
Trap	MAISEA	A	P	P	A	P	*	*	*	P	P	
VanGasse	MASA	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	P	A	
Ward	SPAC	P	P	A	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	

P = Present    A = Absent    \* = Alternate

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